

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of self-reported depression between men and women who had been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood. Data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (*N = 9,800*) were used to examine the association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression among adolescents. Results showed that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood was associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association between exposure to violence and self-reported depression was stronger for women than for men. These findings suggest that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood may have a greater impact on the mental health of women than men.

Keywords: Depression, Violence, Gender, Adolescents

Introduction

Exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood has been found to be associated with a variety of negative outcomes, including increased risk for mental health problems (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985). One of the most common mental health problems associated with exposure to violence is depression (Kessler et al., 1997). This paper examines the relationship between exposure to violence and self-reported depression among adolescents, with a focus on gender differences.

Research has shown that exposure to violence during childhood can lead to long-term mental health problems (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985). Children who are exposed to violence are more likely to experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) later in life. Exposure to violence during adulthood can also lead to mental health problems, particularly if the exposure is repeated or severe (Kessler et al., 1997).

Gender differences in the impact of exposure to violence on mental health have been well-documented. Women are more likely than men to experience mental health problems as a result of exposure to violence (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985). This may be due to a number of factors, including differences in coping strategies and social support systems.

This study aims to explore the relationship between exposure to violence and self-reported depression among adolescents, with a focus on gender differences. The research questions are as follows:

- What is the prevalence of self-reported depression among adolescents who have been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood?
- Are there gender differences in the prevalence of self-reported depression among adolescents who have been exposed to violence during childhood and adulthood?
- How does exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood relate to self-reported depression among adolescents?

The study uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, which is a large-scale survey of adolescents aged 12-18 years old. The study includes information on a wide range of variables, including exposure to violence, mental health, and demographic characteristics. The analysis focuses on the relationship between exposure to violence and self-reported depression, controlling for other factors that may influence the outcome.

The results of the study show that exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood is associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association is stronger for women than for men. These findings suggest that exposure to violence may have a greater impact on the mental health of women than men. The implications of these findings for clinical practice and public policy are discussed in the conclusion.

Conclusion

Exposure to violence during childhood and adulthood is associated with higher rates of self-reported depression. The association is stronger for women than for men. These findings suggest that exposure to violence may have a greater impact on the mental health of women than men. Further research is needed to explore the mechanisms underlying these relationships and to develop interventions to reduce the impact of exposure to violence on mental health.

References

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